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Submitted To:

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**508 Church Street, Toronto and 510 Church Street, Toronto:
Heritage Property Nomination [Heritage Preservation Services]
Appendices**

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This document has 4 parts:

- Appendix A:** Supporting Text
- Appendix B:** Notable Former and Current Occupants / Residents / Tenants
- Appendix C:** Maps and Photographs
- Appendix D:** Sources

Appendix A – Supporting Text:

Located on the west side of Church Street between Alexander Street and Maitland Street, 508-510 Church Street, Toronto is a semi-detached, 2.5 to 3 storey house dating to 1858-1859. The property is presently largely associated with its contemporary use as *Crews and Tangos* – a popular LGBTQ community space (gay bar and drag-oriented entertainment venue). However, 508-510 Church Street is connected to and representative of over a century of neighbourhood and regional history prior to its use as a popular LGBTQ community space (gay bar and drag-oriented entertainment venue). I would like to nominate 508-510 Church Street, Toronto for designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act* due to its architectural, contextual, and historical importance and

interest. Of note is that, the property is under threat of redevelopment and potential demolition – which has been the subject of several recent community and media articles dating to March 2020.

Since 1858-1859, 508-510 Church Street, Toronto has gone through several re-numberings:

Year Range:	508 Church Street, Toronto (2020):	510 Church Street, Toronto (2020):
1858 - 1871	384 Church Street	386 Church Street
1872 - 1889	430 Church Street	432 Church Street
1890 – 2020	508 Church Street	510 Church Street

508-510 Church Street appears as a frame structure on William Somerville Boulton’s 1858 Map of Toronto – indicating that these properties were likely under construction in 1858. No data is available for 1857. Of note is that in the 1856 City of Toronto Directory, Church Street north of Carlton Street is listed as having 1 resident (Hugh Corr – General Dealer) with the remainder of Church Street north of Carlton Street being listed as being entirely vacant lots. The first occupants of 508-510 Church Street (then 384-386 Church Street) do not appear in City of Toronto Directories until 1859 (see Appendix B for further details). Contextually and historically, 508-510 Church Street (and 518 Church Street) are the oldest surviving structures on Church Street north of Carlton Street and are representative of some of the earliest developments on and history of both this section of Church Street and the broader Church-Wellesley Village neighbourhood.¹

508-510 Church Street was initially part of a row of houses spanning from 508 Church Street to 518 Church Street. 512-516 Church Street were demolished by the mid-

¹ A few earlier properties exist on side streets in the Church-Wellesley Village neighbourhood, including 37 Maitland Street (1853) and 56 Wellesley Street West (Paul Kane House) (1854). 34 Isabella Street (Jared Sessions House) (1859-1860) is additionally from this era of early neighbourhood development.

1960s to create a parking lot – which is noted to be involved in the upcoming re-development plans that also include 508-510 Church Street (Wong-Tam 2020). 518 Church Street – located at the southwest corner of Church Street and Maitland Street also dates to 1858-1859 – and is extant – with its present use being *The Lodge* and *O’Grady’s on Church*.² Of note is that 518 Church Street is noticeably missing its southern counterpart (516 Church Street) – as it appears “cut in half” – whereas it is not immediately apparent that 508-510 Church Street were originally part of a row of houses.

Architecturally, 508-510 Church Street are a 2.5-3 storey, semi-detached house. The property is architecturally asymmetrical and unique for the surrounding area. It is not presently possible to determine the colour of the brickwork or whether the property contains monochrome or polychrome brickwork due to multiple layers of paint, including a large mural painted on the east (Church Street / front) elevation by Elicser Elliott³ in 2014 as part of the Church Street Mural Project.^{4 5} However, a number of interesting and intricate masonry and structural details remain visible underneath the mural and paint layers (see Appendix C, Figures 6-8). Also, of note is that 508 Church Street contains a 2-storey bay window, whereas 510 Church Street has a gable, though no bay windows. Stained glass is intact on 510 Church Street’s ground floor window on the east elevation (Church Street frontage). The north and south elevations are plainer – though imprints of what could be 2 large, presently disconnected chimneys are visible on the north elevation. The north elevation contains no windows or openings, whereas the south elevation – closely abutting 506 Church Street- contains a fire escape and 2 or 3 windows. The west (Donna Shaw Lane / rear) elevation contains 2 heavily modified

² These are both bars and restaurants, with *O’Grady’s on Church* on the ground floor and *The Lodge* on the second floor.

³ Elliott is a graffiti and visual-based artist in Toronto (Black in Canada 2016).

⁴ I have attempted to locate historical photographs of the property through the City of Toronto Archives and the ArQuives (Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives) – though there is limited access to these collections at present – as many materials have not been digitized – and the COVID-19 pandemic has physical collections closed to the public at present.

⁵ The foundation of the property is notably a different type of masonry material than the rest of the structure.

dormer windows, a fire escape, as well as a large patio / terrace used by *Crews and Tangos*. 2 large ailanthuses (tree of heavens) have been integrated into this patio / terrace structure. An outbuilding exists on site as well – potentially used as storage by *Crews and Tangos* - though it is not presently clear when this outbuilding was built. Of note is that an outbuilding appears in depictions of the property on William Somerville Boulton's 1858 Map of Toronto and 1880-1924 *Goad's Atlas of Toronto: Fire Insurance Plans*. At present, *Crews and Tangos* occupies the ground and second floor of the building, with washrooms and storage in the basement. Management offices are located in the attic / third floor.

Between 1858 and the mid-to-late 1960s, 508-510 Church Street was primarily residential. However, several dressmakers and seamstresses operated from these addresses – which appears to have also been used as their residences – during the late 1880s and 1890s. Additionally, of note is that both 508 and 510 Church Street were used intermittently as a boarding house / rooming house in the late 1880s, early 1900s, and again in the 1960s. The internal space of 508-510 Church Street, Toronto is now 1 venue space, with this conversion likely taking place during the late 20th century.

508-510 Church Street, Toronto is surrounded by the following:

To the East: To the east of 508-510 Church Street is Church Street itself. Across the street are 461-471 Church Street, presently used by a mix of businesses – including several popular bars, entertainment venues, and restaurants (including *The Churchmouse: A Firkin Pub; Flash; Woody's and Sailor*, etc.). The buildings across the street at 467-475 Church Street, Toronto date to the early-to-mid 1860s and may additionally benefit from a Heritage Evaluation – in addition to several others in the Church-Wellesley Village neighbourhood.

To the North: To the north of 508-510 Church Street is a parking lot, known as 512-516 Church Street. As noted above, 508-510 Church Street were originally

part of a row of houses at 508-518 Church Street. 512-516 Church Street were demolished by the mid-1960s to create a parking lot. This parking lot is noted to likely also be included in the future re-development plans of 508-510 Church Street. To the north of this parking lot is 518 Church Street (presently *The Lodge and O’Grady’s on Church*) – located at the southwest corner of Church Street and Maitland Street. 518 Church Street, Toronto also dates to 1858-1859.

To the South: To the south of 508-510 Church Street, Toronto is 506 Church Street. 506 Church Street dates to 1865 to 1872 and is presently home to *Boutique Bar*. 506 Church Street may additionally benefit from a Heritage Evaluation, as it is included with the development plans including 508-510 Church Street, and as such is under risk of demolition. 506 Church Street is notable for being the home of Esther Frances (also known as Hessie or Hester) How (1848 – 1915) between 1887 and 1910. How worked with the children of some of Toronto’s poorest families and was an early pioneer in both early childhood childcare (daycares and nurseries) and education – as well as the reformation of delinquent and troubled youth in Toronto. How is noted in a biographical article by Dr. Susan E. Houston – a Professor Emerita of the Department of History at York University - published in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* to “have realized [early in her career] that schooling alone could not improve the lives of urchins. In the late 1880s she started a crèche. Subsequently How developed a free-lunch program, a penny bank, summer camps, and health and dental services. Before a juvenile court was set up, she dealt with the magistrates on behalf of her more troublesome students” (Houston 2020). South of 506 Church Street, Toronto is 504 Church Street. The age of 504 Church Street, Toronto is presently unclear and the property is presently a vacant commercial space. South of 504 Church Street, Toronto is 490-500 Church Street, Toronto and 60-70 Alexander Street, Toronto (northwest corner of Alexander Street and Church Street) – a mid-rise building with ground floor commercial spaces with residential floors above.

To the West: To the west of 508-510 Church Street is Donna Shaw Lane. An outbuilding – potentially dating to the 19th century and uncommon for Church Street – exists along the laneway frontage of 508-510 Church Street. To the west of Donna Shaw Lane are several high-rises, dating to the mid-20th century, and known as 50 Alexander Street, Toronto and 55 Maitland Street, Toronto.

I would like to nominate 508-510 Church Street, Toronto for designation under the Ontario Heritage Act due to its architectural, contextual, and historical importance. Of note is that development plans for the site have not been submitted as of the time of writing this (15 May 2020). However and as noted above, a number of community and media articles were published in March 2020 offering a discussion on how the building is presently home to a well-known LGBTQ community space (gay bar and drag-oriented entertainment venue) and subsequently indicating concern over the potential demolition of the site as part of a future re-development (Wong-Tam 2020, Simonpillai 2020, King 2020).⁶

Appendix B - Notable Former and Current Occupants / Residents / Tenants:

Arthur H. Holmested, Elizabeth Sarah Holmested, and George Smith

Holmested – The Holmesteds resided at 508-510 Church Street between 1859 and 1892. Of note is that the Holmesteds lived at 508 Church Street between 1859 and 1860, before moving next door to 510 Church Street in 1861. Arthur H. Holmested (approximately 1809 to 1883) was a prominent barrister and administrator of Osgoode Hall, who – after emigrating from the United Kingdom in 1857 – served as Clerk in the

⁶ One of these articles indicates a petition was started to save Crews and Tangos – obtaining over 31 000 signatures as of 11 May 2020 (Andreis 2020), though none of these articles presently appear to acknowledge or reference the age and/or history of 508-510 Church Street, Toronto itself.

Office of the Registrar of the Court of Chancery between 1857 and 1868 (MacMurchy 1928, 451). Arthur Holmested later became the first Clerk of Records and Writs at the Court of Chancery in 1868, before resigning from this position in 1880 (Hamilton 1904, 64, MacMurchy 1928, 451). Elizabeth Sarah Holmested (née Smith) (approximately 1814 - unknown) was Arthur's wife and resided at the property until 1892. Arthur and Sarah Holmested had 8 children (MyHeritage Ltd. 2020) – some of who also emigrated from the United Kingdom to Australia or Canada. In the context of Toronto, George Smith Holmested (1841-1928) was one of their sons – who emigrated to Toronto alongside his parents in 1857. George Smith Holmested was called to the Bar in 1865, eventually becoming a prominent barrister and notable administrator of Osgoode Hall. George Smith Holmested resided at 510 Church Street (then 386 Church Street) between 1871 and 1872. George Smith Holmested then moved to 34 Maitland Street, Toronto⁷ in 1874 where he resided until 1883 – and later moved to the now demolished 58 Saint Alban's Street (now Wellesley Street West), Toronto, where he resided between 1887 and 1928. Angus MacMurchy (1858/1859 – 1931) – an author of several law books, a solicitor for the *Canadian Pacific Railway*, and a Bencher of the *Law Society of Upper Canada* – notes in *George Smith Holmested: An Appreciation* – a biographical article of George Smith Holmested which was published in the *Canadian Bar Review* journal in 1928 – that Arthur H. Holmested and George Holmested had a combined service of “no less than seventy years in the history of Osgoode Hall” (MacMurchy 1928, 451).

William Sladden – William Sladden⁸ is listed as residing at 510 Church Street (then 386 Church Street) between 1859 and 1860. Sladden was the Secretary and Treasurer of the *Ontario, Simcoe, and Huron Railroad Union Company*⁹ during the early 1850s

⁷ 34 Maitland Street is the subject of another Heritage Property Nomination, which I submitted to Heritage Preservation Services (City of Toronto) and Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam's office on 4 May 2020.

⁸ I was unfortunately unable to locate the specific date of birth and date of death of William Sladden.

⁹ The *Ontario, Simcoe, and Huron Railroad Union Company* was originally called the *Toronto, Simcoe, and Huron Railway*, and was established in 1849-1851. This company was the first steam railway company in Upper Canada. In 1859, the company was reorganized as the *Northern Railway of Canada* and reorganized again in 1879 – after an amalgamation with the *Hamilton and North Western Railway* –

(Morrison 1852-1853, Appendix 1, 16 *Victoriae*) – though it is unclear at present how long he held this position. Sladden was also an attorney and parliamentary agent who published *The Registry Laws Affecting Lands in Upper Canada* - a guide to land and real estate acquisitions, sales, statutes, titles, and transactions in Upper Canada – in 1857 (Sladden 1857, Ardagh and Harrison 1858, 26).

Benjamin Morton – Benjamin Morton (1832-1902) is listed as residing at 508 Church Street (then 384 Church Street) between 1862 and 1865. Benjamin Morton was an accountant at the Bank of Upper Canada. His wife was Mary Swanwick Hutton Morton (1830-1906). Benjamin Morton held a moderate number of shares (77 shares) in the Bank of Upper Canada in 1869 (Parliament of the Dominion of Canada 1869, 11 (32 *Victoria*)) and is noted to have been one of the largest landowners in the East End of Toronto during the 1880s (Fairburn 2013, 144, Myrvold 2018, 2, Parker 2020). The Mortons are also noted to have been influential and prominent in the development of the East End of Toronto – with several buildings and streets in the East End – such as Swanwick Avenue – subsequently being named after members of the family (Parker 2020).

John Percy – John Percy¹⁰ of *G. Percy & Son* resided at 508 Church Street (then 384 Church Street) between 1867 and 1869. *G. Percy & Son* was a painting and tinsmith business based on Shuter Street in the Moss Park neighbourhood of Toronto.

William (Wilkin) Bromilow Butler, Janet Butler, and Ernest William David Butler - The Butlers resided at 508 Church Street (then 384 Church Street) between 1872 and 1885. In the City of Toronto Directories, the main individual listed is William (Wilkin) Bromilow Butler (1820-1880) who was a house, land, and mercantile agent at

as the *Northern and North Western Railway* in 1879. In 1888, the *Grand Trunk Railway* leased the company and outright purchased it in 1892 (Brown 1952, Boles 2011).

¹⁰ I was unfortunately unable to locate a specific date of birth or date of death for John Percy.

the Division Court, with his offices listed as being at the Leader Building. Between 1881 and 1885, the main individual listed is Mrs. Janet Butler (née McEwen) (1825-1909) – who was William (Wilkin) B. Butler’s wife and later widow. Also listed at this address intermittently between 1872 and 1885 is Ernest William David (W. D.) Butler (1853/1854-1935). Ernest W.D. Butler was William (Wilkin) Bromilow Butler’s and Janet Butler’s son. In *Toronto, Old and New* (1891) by Graeme Mercer Adam – an influential Scottish-Canadian author, editor, and publisher – Ernest W. D. Butler is noted to have emigrated from Dublin, Ireland at a young age (Adam 1891, 157). His “present enterprise [since 1880], established by his father in 1860, [...] is that of selling, purchasing, and managing properties, investing money, valuing, arbitrating, and doing life and fire insurance business” (Adam 1891, 157). The clients of the Butler’s firm “embrace[d] a number of the most wealthy and influential citizens and land corporations of Toronto, besides a large number residing in the United States, England, and other countries” (Adam, Mulvany and Robinson 1885, 348). The firm was additionally noted to have been involved with developments in Parkdale, Rosedale, and other suburban areas (Adam, Mulvany and Robinson 1885, 348). In 1885, the firm was based at 66 King Street East in Toronto – near the intersection of King Street East and Leader Lane (Adam, Mulvany and Robinson 1885, 349). Ernest W. D. Butler is noted – as of 1891- to have been the President of the *Canadian Savings, Loan, and Building Association* and worked as a valuator for several loan companies (Adam 1891, 157). He was additionally the Grand Secretary for the *Sovereign Sanctuary of Canada and Newfoundland (Royal and Oriental Freemasonry)* (Adam 1891, 157). Adam (1891) also specifically notes that Ernest W. D. Butler was a Presbyterian, a Conservative, and a “believ[er and supporter] in the Equal Rights movement” (157).

Methven (Methuen) J. Cairncross – Methven (also spelled Methuen) J. Cairncross¹¹ was a builder and carpenter that resided at 508 Church Street for 59 years, between 1907 and 1966. Methven (Methuen) J. Cairncross originally worked for *John H. Cairncross Carpentry* before opening his own business in the mid-1910s. In the

¹¹ I was unable to locate a specific date of birth or date of death for Methven (Methuen) J. Cairncross.

mid-1960s, Cairncross leased space to and/or operated *Lindsay Welding* out of the rear outbuilding (accessed via Donna Shaw Lane) of the property.

Sebert Productions Limited, Clark Colin, James Prince, and Stanley Kent:

In the late 1960s, the property began a more intensive shift from residential to commercial usage. In 1969, *Sebert Productions Limited* and Clark Colin – commercial artists and photographers – operated out of 508 Church Street. Similarly, in 1969, 510 Church Street is listed as an office building, with the ground floor vacant and the second floor being occupied by James Prince and Stanley Kent – both graphic designers. As noted above, this marked the start of 508-510 Church Street, Toronto being a commercial – rather than residential – space.

Crews and Tangos - The popular bar and drag-oriented entertainment venue known as *Crews and Tangos* is the present tenant of 508-510 Church Street. *Crews* (operating on the main floor) opened in the mid-1990s and *Tangos* (operating on the second floor) opened in 2004 (King 2020). However, these bars/venues are run by the same management team. Of note is that the 2 properties – 508 Church Street and 510 Church Street – have been combined into 1 internal venue space – with this change likely occurring in the late 20th century. There is presently ongoing community and public concern that this LGBTQ community space and venue will be closed due to a condominium and/or mix used re-development at 506 - 516 Church Street, Toronto (Wong-Tam 2020, Simonpillai 2020, King 2020).

Note: There may be other notable occupants between 1970 and the mid-1990s, though I have limited access to archival data from this period, due to the City of Toronto Archives' and ArQuives' (Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives') physical collections presently being closed to the public as a result of COVID-19.

Appendix C – Maps and Photograph:

An album of additional, downloadable, and higher quality photographs is available here:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=13LHuZhP_4Xv2k2Ybxfydg2fW511XoAa5

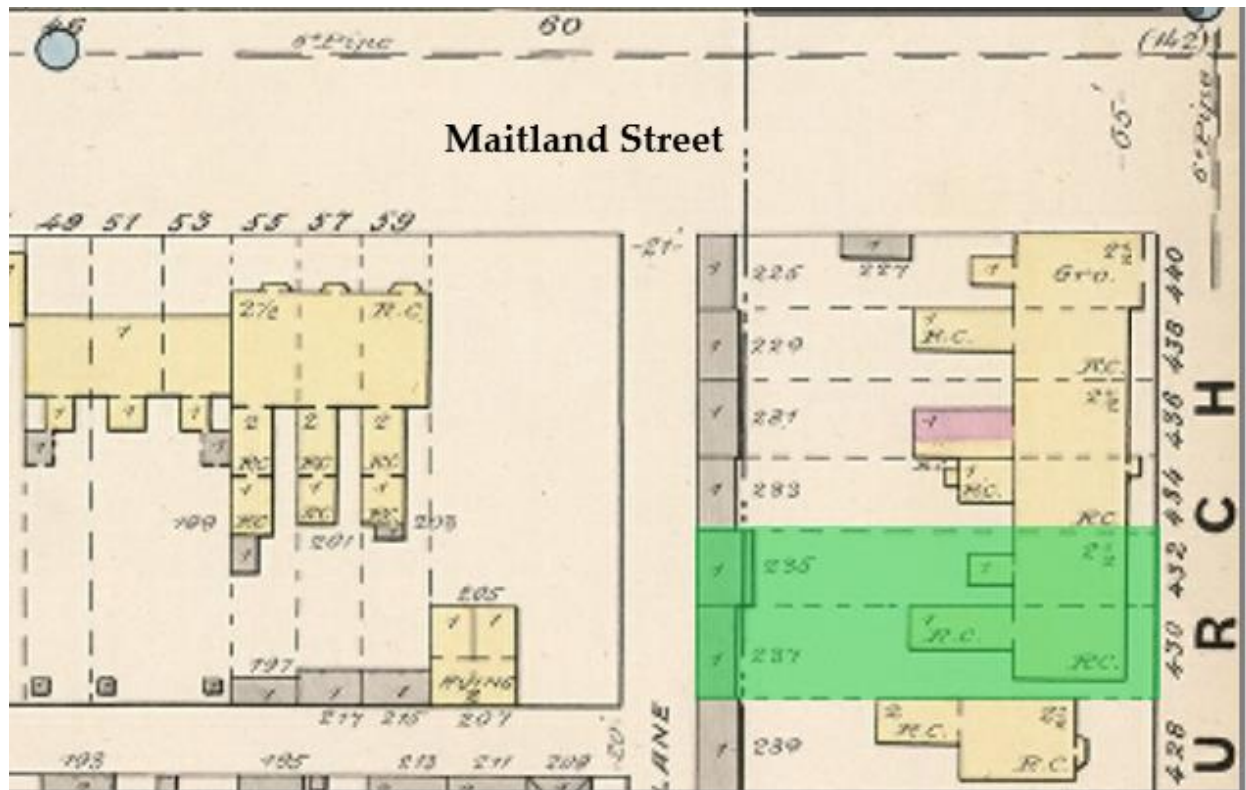
Note: As mentioned above, there is no public access to archival collections (City of Toronto Archives, ArQuives (Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives)) – including non-digitized historical photographs – at present due to COVID-19. As such, I do not have any historical photographs of 508-510 Church Street, Toronto. My apologies for any inconveniences from this.



Appendix C, Figure 1

Above: Location of 508-510 Church Street, Toronto.

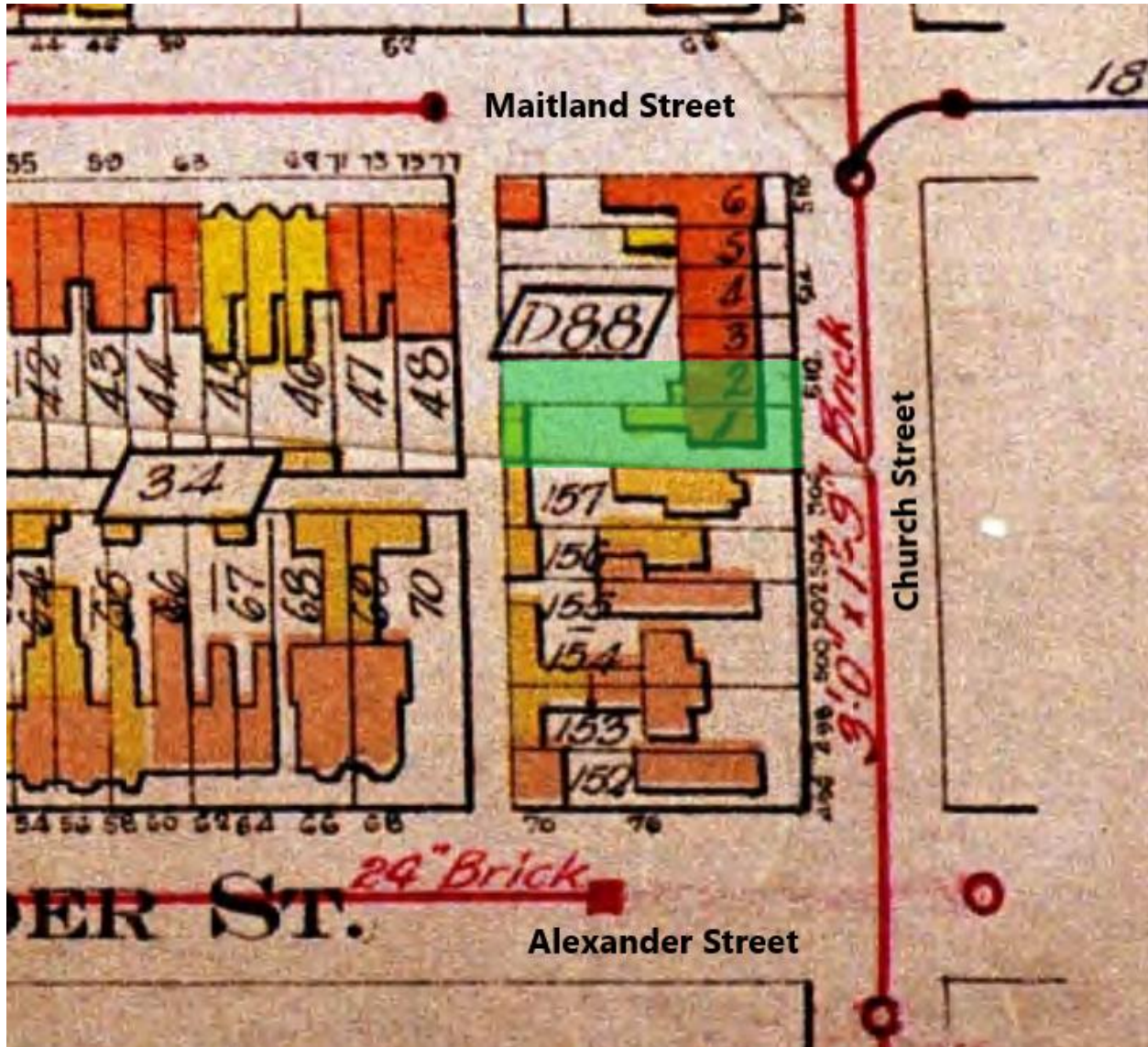
Source: City of Toronto Interactive Map (highlighted by Adam Wynne).



Appendix C, Figure 2

Above: Location of 508-510 Church Street, Toronto (then 430-432 Church Street, Toronto) on the 1880 *Goad's Atlas of Toronto: Fire Insurance Maps*. Note how the properties are part of a row of houses, which are now largely demolished.

Source: 1880 *Goad's Atlas of Toronto: Fire Insurance Map*, Plate 49 (highlighted by Adam Wynne).



Appendix C, Figure 3

Above: Location of 508-510 Church Street, Toronto on the 1924 *Goad's Atlas of Toronto: Fire Insurance Plans*. Note how the properties are part of a row of houses, which are now largely demolished.

Source: 1924 *Goad's Atlas of Toronto: Fire Insurance Map*, Plate 26 (highlighted by Adam Wynne).



Appendix C, Figure 4

Above: 508-510 Church Street, Toronto: East and North Elevations – Looking Southwest – on 3 May 2020.

Source: Photograph by Adam Wynne.



Appendix C, Figure 5

Above: 508-510 Church Street, Toronto: East (front) and North (side) Elevations – Looking Southwest – on 3 May 2020.
Note the scale and type of the surrounding properties.

Source: Photograph by Adam Wynne.



Appendix C, Figure 6

Above: 508-510 Church Street, Toronto – East Elevation – 3 May 2020.

Source: Photograph by Adam Wynne.



Appendix C, Figure 7

Above: East (front) elevation of 506-510 Church Street, Toronto on 3 May 2020. 508-510 Church Street, Toronto is the 2.5-3 storey house painted blue with the mural depicting faces. 506 Church Street – to the left (south) of the property dates to 1865 to 1872 and may also benefit from a Heritage Evaluation.

Source: Photograph by Adam Wynne.



Appendix C, Figure 8

Above: Architectural details on Upper Floors of the East Elevation of 508-510 Church Street, Toronto on 3 May 2020.

Source: Photograph by Adam Wynne.



Appendix C, Figure 9

Above: North (side) and west (rear) elevations of 508-510 Church Street, Toronto on 3 May 2020.

Source: Photograph by Adam Wynne.



Appendix C, Figure 10

Above: South and west elevations of the outbuilding at 508-510 Church Street, Toronto on 3 May 2020. This outbuilding is accessed via Donna Shaw Lane. Its age is presently unknown, though an outbuilding appears in depictions of the property on both William Somerville Boulton's 1858 *Map of Toronto*, as well as 1880-1924 *Goad's Atlas of Toronto: Fire Insurance Plans*.

Source: Photograph by Adam Wynne.

Appendix D – Sources:

City of Toronto Directories were consulted for years between 1850 and 1969.

The City of Toronto Interactive Map and Goad's Atlas of Toronto: Fire Insurance Plans were consulted for map-related data.

The City of Toronto Archives and ArQuives (Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives) were consulted for historical photographs of 508-510 Church Street, Toronto – though of note is that their collections are presently inaccessible by members of the public due to COVID-19.

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